

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAM-01 /093 W

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R 300455Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9158

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USMISSION GENEVA

CINCPAC

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 0254

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ;,, VS

SUBJECT: EDITORIAL ON CURRENT SITUATION IN VIETNAM

1. THE WELLINGTON MORNING DAILY THE DOMINION ON JANUARY 30 PUBLISHED AN EDITORIAL INTITLED QUOTE NEWS FROM VIETNAM END QUOTE WHICH THE EMBASSY CONSIDERS WORTHY OF TRANSMISSION TO ADDRESSEES. TEXT FOLLOWS:

2. QUOTE: TWO LEADERS OF STUDENT ORGANISATIONS HAVE CALLED FOR RECOGNITION BY THE NEW ZEALDN GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT IN WHOSE NAME THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST FORCES CARRY ON THE CAPAIGN FOR OVERTHROW OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. THEY ALSO ACCUSE THE MEDIA OF GENERALLY DISTORTING NEWS FROM VIETNAM, AND OFFER AS AN EXAMPLE CONTINUED REFERENCES TO THE "VIET CONG" RATHER THAN TO THE PRG. AS STUDENTS THEY CAN RECOGNIZE WHOM THEY WISH, BUT TO EXPECT THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNIZE A
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REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL WITH THE PROVOCATIVE TITLE OF

"PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT", WHILE ALSO RECOGNISING THE ELECTED AND ACTUAL GOVERNMENT -- WHICH NEW ZEALAND WILL SURELY CONTINUE TO DO -- IS TO ADVOCATE THE RIDICULOUS.

"IN REQUIREING THE ISURGENTS TO BE CALLED ONLY BY THE TITLE OF THEIR POLITICAL COUNCIL IS TO IGNORE THE REALITY THAT THEY DO COMPRISE THE OLD VIET CONG AND THE ARMY OF NORTH VIETNAM. SO EMPHATIC IS THE HANOI DIRECTION OF THIS DIDICATED AND CONTINUING ATTEMPT TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT IN SAIGON THAT THE 150,000 NORTH VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS IN THE SOUTH HAVE BEEN BUILT UP TO 300,000, IN FOURTEEN DIVISIONS SO DEPLOYED THAT THEY THREATEN TO ISOLATE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CITIES AND MAKE GUERILLAS OF THE ARVN SOLDIERS WHERE THAT TACTIC WAS ONCE THE PREROGATIVE OF THE INSURGENTS THREATENING AMERICAN MIGHT.

NEW ZEALAND FRIENDS OF THE HANOI FORCES WOULD CONTINUE TO INSIST THAT THIS IS A POPULAR REVOLUTION SPRINGING FROM THE SOUTH AS MUCH AS IT IS AIDED BY THE REGIME IN THE NORTH; BUT EVIDENCE IN THE FIELD HAS NOT SUPPORTED THIS SINCE LAND REFORMS IN THE SOUTH BLUNTED PEASANT DISENCHANTMENT. NOW IT TAKES NORTH VIETNAMESE DIVISIONS EVEN IN THE MEKONG DELTA TO POSE A THREAT TO VILLAGES STILL LOYAL TO THE GOVERNMENT. THE CONDITIONS ARE GREATLY CHANGED.

GOOD REASONS FOR PRESIDENT THIEU TO HAVE DELAYED SIGNING THE PARIS ACCORDS ARE MISREPRESENTED IN THE CRITICISMS. ONE JUSTIFICATION OF THE DELAY WAS TO ACHIEVE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE GENEVA AGREEMENTS WHICH RECOGNISED THE SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION BENEATH THE 17TH PARALLEL. THE ROLE OF THE PRG IN THE KEY PARIS AGREEMENT IS OVER-EMPHASISED IN THE CRITICISMS. IT IS HAILED AS A SIGNATORY WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE LACK OF ANY MENTION OF IT IN THE DOCUMENT, OR REFERENCE TO THE PREROGATIVE OF SIGNATORIES NOT TO RECOGNISE EACH OTHER WHERE RECOGNITION HAS NEVER BEEN GIVEN. HOW CAN ANY GOVERNMENT RECOGNISE A "PROVISIONAL" ONE WHOSE ONLY PURPOSE IS TO OVERTHROW IT?

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AND ONE WHICH WILL NOT CARRY ON THE NEGOTIATIONS PROVIDED FOR IN THE ACCORDS TO FORM A "NATIONAL COUNCIL OF RECONCILIATION AND CONCORD", TILL THE GOVERNMENT'S PRESIDENT IS REPLACED? THE GOVERNMENT SAYS IT WILL NEGOTIATE WITH NO REQUIREMENTS. TO FORM THAT COUNCIL THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRG MUST AGREE ON INDIVIDUALS WHO WILL FORM THE THIRD SIDE TO A TRIANGLE. THE COUNCIL WILL THEN ORGANISE ELECTIONS; TILL THE TWO NEGOTIATE FOR

AND FIND THE THIRD PARTY NO PROGRESS CAN BE MADE, OTHER
THAN THE MILITARY ONE THE VIET CONG AND NORTH VIETNAMESE
ARMY HAVE FALLEN BACK ON.

THE CHARGE OF DISTORTION OF NEWS FAILS BECAUSE THE
WESTERN MEDIA HAS PUBLISHED AS MUCH AS IT HAS HAD ACCESS
TO, EVEN WHERE THIS REFLECTED BADLY ON THE CONDUCT OF
THE DEFENSIVE FORCES. THE MEDIA FELT A RESPONSIBILITY
TO EXPOSE THIS. IT HAD NO SUCH ACCESS TO, OR
RESPONSIBILITY FOR, THE BEHAVIOUR OF THE ENEMY WHOSE
OWN PRESS OPERATED IN A CLOSED SOCIETY. CLAIMED VIOLATIONS
OF THE PEACE TREATY HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED FROM BOTH SIDES --
BUT NONE HAS COMPARED WITH THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE NORTH
VIETNAMESE REGIMENTS IN TAKING OVER AN ENTIRE PROVINCE.

NO NEWS MEDIUM COULD DISTOR THE FACT OR MEANING OF
THAT. IT SHOWS WHERE THE MILITARY MIGHT LIES NOW, AND
ESTABLISHES THAT THIS IS NOT CONFINED TO LOCAL
REVOLUTIONARIES. END QUOTE.

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